mentation where technology transfer agreements have been recently concluded; there are also other areas under consideration for transfer of high technology like, earth stations, power electronic equipment and electronic components.

Escalation in costs in Major Public Sector Projects

@@@1124. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per reports which appeared in the Indian Express of February 3, 1986, twenty-three major public sector projects in the key sectors have shown alarming escalation in costs; and

(b) if so, what are the details of these projects indicating the cost escalation involved and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHARY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of these projects are indicated in the enclosed Statement. [*See* Appendix CXXXVII Annexure No. 14].

Crash of an IAF helicopter

1125. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that four Indian Air Force personnel, including two pilots, were killed in an helicopter crash somewhere in the Eastern Sector during the last week of December, 1985; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard stating the result of the inquiry, if any, conducted into the mishap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An Inquiry has been ordered to investigate into the causes of the accident. The precise cause of the accident would only be known after the enquiry is completed. However, its findings would not be disclosed in the public interest.

Testing of hydrogen bomb by U.S.

1126. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the hydrogen bomb test conducten by the U.S. in the last week of December, 1985 at the Nevada test blast site which is stated to be 10 times more powerful than the exploison which destroyed Hiroshima; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Government of India in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes Sir. Government have seen press reports about such a test conducted by the U.S.

(b) Government of India are strongly opposed to all testing of nuclear weapons. They are of the view that a cessation of testing of nuclear weapons would be an important first step in the direction of reduction and eventual elimination of nuclear weapons. This position of the Goverment of India has been put forward forcefully both in bilateral discussions with nuclear weapon States as well as in various multilateral forums.

@@@Previously Unstarred Question 857 transferred from the 3rd March, 1986.